

ARTICLES

O F 28

Visitation & Enquiry

Concerning MATTERS
ECCLESIASTICAL

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-wardens, and
Side-men, of every Parish within the

Diocese of O X O N

In the Second EPISCOPAL VISITATION:
OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God,

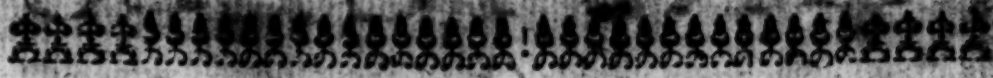
WALTER

Blandford
By Divine Permission

Lord Bishop of O X O N


OXFORD,
Printed by William Hall, Anno Dom. 1670.




*The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the Church-
wardens and Side-men of every Parish.*

YOU shall Swear diligently to enquire,
and to make a true Answer unto every
Article in this Book now given you in Charge;
and to Present every Person that now is, or of
late was, inhabiting within your Parish, that
hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty
therein mentioned. And this you shall do up-
rightly and truly, without Favour or Malice,
Hope of Reward, or Fear of Displeasure, so
far as by the Laws you are bound.

So Help you God.



Printed by J. Stansfeld, at the Church of St. Dunstons, in the City of London.

ARTICLES

Of Visitation and Enquiry

Within the DIOCES of OXON:

T I T. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging

TS your parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair: Are the Roofs thereof well cotered with Lead, Tile or Slates; the Windows well Glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed; and all things so decently ordered as becometh the House of God?

II. HATH the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto been imbezelled, sold or made away: In whose hands or custody doth the same or any part thereof remain: Dec are what you know, or have heard therein.

III. IS there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism: And is there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table for the Administration of the Lords Supper; with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen-Cloath, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen, to spread thereupon: And have you a faire Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of Silber, and one or more Flagons of Silber or Pewter thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient Seat or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in: A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same: A Bible of the last Translation in a large Volume, and two Books of Common-Prayer, one for the Minister, and the other for the Clerk, all well and suitably bound: Have you likewise the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority?

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Book of Canons, and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, the Book of the Thirty nine Articles of Religion, And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited? Have you also his Majesties Proclamation commanded to be read Yearly, upon the Sunday before the Thirtieth day of January?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministrations in the Church, provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of your Parish?

VI. HAVE you a Register-Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish; together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the day, moneth, and year of all such Christenings; Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Moneth next after the 25 of March brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chapel? As also a third Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens Accounts: and such sums of money as have been collected in your Parish upon any Briefs that have come unto it: together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the afore-mentioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tithes belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced and kept from the annoyance of Swine? Hath any person encroached upon the same, or made any Dooz into it out of his own Grounds or Habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down; How long since, by whom, and to whose use and benefit?

II. Is the house of your Parson Vicar or Curate, (with all the out-houses thereto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or have any of the said Houses or Out-houses been decayed or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached

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encroached upon any Garden, Park, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage House? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Parks and Bounds of the same? Or is there any House belonging to your Minister, or any part of his Glebe detained from him by the Patron or any other?

III. HAVE you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rents, tithes and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom, as you know or have heard?

IV. HAVE any of the ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and License from the Ordinary? Hath any Inclosure been made in your Parish to the detriment of the Church by converting Arable lands into Pasture? By whome hath the same been done? and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage diminished thereby in the yearly value thereof, as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister defamed, or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniackal compact?

II. HATH he been legally Inducted into his Benefice?

III. DID he within two months after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England established by Authority, and there publicly declare his assent therein? And hath he published the Bishops Certificate of his subscribing the Declaration for the Book of Common Prayer, and against the Covenant openly in the Church, at the time of Divine Service?

IV. HATH he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice among you, or is he at any time for any long season absent? Doth he supply any other Church besides his own? Hath he a settled Curate to assist him in his absence? Is that Curate an able, discreet and conformable person? Licensed by the Bishop, residing and attending only upon that Cure? And hath he a competent Allowance according to the Value of the Living?

V. BOTH your Parson, Vicar, or Curate read the Daily Morning and Evening Service, with the second service (as it is prescribed) on

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Sundays and Holy-dayes, beginning his Sermon immediately after the Nicene Creed, and ordering his Prayer; or Widdow of Prayer before Sermon, both for matter and length, as he is directed in the fiftie and fiftieth Canon? Doth he read also the Litanie on sundays, as likewise on Wednesdayes, and Fridayes? And doth he in reading the said services, and in the Administration of the holy sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the sick, Buriall of the dead, and Pronouncing Gods Communion against impenitent sinners, use the forme and words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without any Addition, Omission, or Alteration of the same? Doth he also on the Fifth of November, the Twentieth of January, and the Pyne and Twentieth of May read the particular services appointed for those daies? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine service, as are appointed in the said Book, so far as you have observed?

VI. DOTH your Minister at the reading, and celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church, or Chappell constantly wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholasticall Habitt, as is suitable to his Degree?

VII. DOTH he observe the Holy dayes and Fasting days, as also the Ember weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as in the Common Prayer book is appointed? giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service, upon the Sunday next before?

VIII. HATH your Minister been licensed to preach by the Bishop? If so, doth he then constantly (unless, in case of Sicknes, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himselfe Preach in your Church or Chappell one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed be hindered by Sicknes, or otherwise as aforesaid, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed preacher? or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon?

IX. DOTH your Minister celebrate the sacrament of the Lords Supper so often every yeare, that every Parishoner may receive the same at the least? And doth he repell those that ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop?

X. DOTH your Minister constantly on Sundays in the after noon immediately after the second Lesson diligently instruct the youth of your Parish in the Church Catechisme? and doth he prepare, and present them being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting

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bring forth to your Parish) to the true Religion, established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Lawes, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. D O T H he neglect or refuse to visit the sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Doth he use to baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers? or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Child, or doth he baptize any at home except in case of imminent danger?

XII. H A T H he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to induce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the public peace and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. H A T H he presumed to Marry any persons in private houses, or such as being under age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banns first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? or at any other hours then between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a Licence or Dispensation so to do? Or hath he buried with Christian Buriall, any who died unbaptized or Excommunicated, or that have laid violent hands upon themselves?

XIV. D O T H any person Preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lectures read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common Prayer? and is he in all respects conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. H A T H your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophesyings, or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or hath he or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people or several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Lawes and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. I S your Minister, whether Parson, Vicar, or Curate, conformable to the holy Rule and great example of our Lord Jesus Christ? Is he a man of a studious, sober, peaceable and exemplary life, for simplicity, charity and industry in his Calling? Is he grave, modest and regular in his outward demeanour, without vanity in his haire, and his apparell such, as may distinguish him from the Lay, as the Canons of the Church require? Is his discourse and whole Conversation becomming a Minister of the Gospel, who remembers the great Account he must give for his own and other

other mens houses committed to his Charge? Is he in any kind whatso-
ever disorderly and scandalous?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. **I**S there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretic, or
Schismatick, any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other
Sectarie, that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or
Services of the Church? or that makes profession of any other Religion
then what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any
such, of what Sect are they, and what are their Names?

II. **I**S there any person in your Parish that lieth under a common
Name, or beehemnt suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are
there any common Drunkards within your Parish? or common Swear-
ers, or blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be railers,
unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of sedition, faction, and discord a-
mongst their neighbors?

III. **D**O any of your Parish upon Sundays or Holy-days, follow their
bodily or ordinary labour, or permit their servants so to do? Are any
shops kept open, or wares sold? or do any Wintners, Innkeepers, or other
Wholesale and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to rattle or game
in their houses upon those days?

IV. **D**O T H every person inhabiting, and sojourning within your
Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday
and holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there
abide quietly, with Reberence, Order and Decency, during all the whole
time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used?
and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to
the Common Prayers of the Church?

V. **D**O T H every person Reberently uncover his head, and so con-
tinue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? Do they all Rebe-
rently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel
are Read, making due Reberence to the Name of our Lord Jesus is
mentioned?

VI. **A**R E

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V I. A R E there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant children to be Baptized publicly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case the Child may be Baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy? or do they send them from their own Minister to be Baptized in any other Parishes, or make use of any other Minister to baptize, when their own is at home? or do they keep their children unbaptized any longer then the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized? who are they, and of what age?

V I I. D O T H every Householder in your Parish cause their children and servants to come to Church to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall requize it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-prayer is appointed; that when they are well Instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

V I I I. I S there any person in your Parish, who, being 16 years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords-supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers, not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

I X. H A V E you any among you that be denounced and declared Ex-communicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so Ex-communicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church and absolved?

X. A R E there any living in your Parish as man and wife, who are within the degrees prohibited: Or any that being lawfully divorced, have married again: Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated, or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

X I. A R E there any married women in your Parish, who, after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church; And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparalled, and make their offerings according to custome?

X I I. A R E there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their duty for Easter-offerings to your Minister: Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture, and ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there? Have you a Rate for the reparation of your Church, confirmed by the Bishop or his Ordinary?

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XIII. D O

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XIII. DO any refuse to bury their dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? and are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved? Or any Goods administered without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

T I T. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappelry, a Parish Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him; or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. DOTH he, or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of the Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he, upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

T I T. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physicians, Chirurgions and Midwives.

I. IS there in your Parish any Hospital, Almshouse, or Free-School, — ~~not of the Kings Foundation or Patronage?~~ Who was the Founder, or ~~is now the Patron thereof?~~ And what is the yearly Revenue or Stipend,

Stipend, belonging to the Governours or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants and ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. D O T H any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop? Doth your Schoo'master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy-days orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. D O T H any man in your Parish practice Physick or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinary?

T I T. VII.

Quæries to be put to the Minister, concerning the Church-wardens and Side-men.

I. A R E the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of the Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. H A V E the former and last Church-wardens given up their due Accounts to the parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the monys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. D O the Church-wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see, who of the parishioners be absent from the Divine-Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel upon Sundays and Holy-days? And if they find any of them to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do they by warrant from some of the Justices of Peace, leavy of them, by way of distress upon their goods, the sum of 12 pence for every such day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that case provided? And do they distribute the several sums so levied among the poore of your Parish, according to the Law?

IV. D O they present them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do they suffer none to stand id'e, or talk together in the Church-porch, or to walk in the Church or Church-yard, during the time of Prayer, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

Offices? Do they take care, and see that all persons Excommunicated, and so denounced, be kept out of the Church?

V. DO they suffer no misbehaviour or disorder to be done by Men, Women, Serbants or Children, in your Church or Chappel? Are they careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do they permit no Minstrils, no Morice-dauncers, no Dogs, Hawks or Hounds, to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

VI. DO they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VII. DO they cause all strangers that Preach in your Church or Chappel, to subscribe their Names the same day, in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the Name of the Bishop that Licensed them to Preach in this Diocese? and do they permit no other to Preach?

VIII. HAVE they (the Church-wardens and Side-men) who are to give in a true answer upon their Oaths, unto all these Articles of Enquiry, in their several Articles taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments at home, before they come to the Visitation? And have they therein consulted with you their Minister for your faithful Assistance?

FOR both you and they are seriously to consider, that as the faithfull discharge of your Trusts, according to your duties or Oaths, is a speciall meanes to repress and reforme all sins and disorders in your Parishes, and so to preserve the honour of Religion, and the peace of this Church, to the Glory of our God and Saviour (which are the great uses and ends of all Church Government and Visitations:) so if you neglect your duties therein by refusing to present such crimes and faults, as either you know to have bin committed, or otherwise have heard of by Publick fame, you will not only sin against God, your consciences, and the Churches Prosperity, and consequently draw upon your selves the guilt of being accessory to the sad decay of Religion, but also become liable to those punishments, which in case of wilfull omission and perjury, are by the Law to be inflicted on you, for your defaults, and must expect that the Bishop and his Officers will proceed against you accordingly.

W A L T E R O X O N.

The Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the Names of such of the Younger sort in their several Parishes, as they shall think fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to the Bishop to be Confirmed, Especially such as having competently learned their Catechism have not yet received the Holy Communion. And every Person that is to be Confirmed, is to have a God father, or God-mother as a witness at their Confirmation, as is appointed by the Book of Common-Prayer.